

Antoinette Dunbar, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum, Instruction, and School Improvement

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BOARD RULE: INITIAL READING
6Gx13- 5B-1.04, PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND GRADUATION -
GRADES K- 12 AND ADULT**

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This item is submitted for consideration by the Board to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13-5B-1.04, Promotion, Placement, and Graduation – Grades K-12 and Adult, and the document, *Student Progression Plan 2004-2005*, which is incorporated by reference and is part of this rule. Changes in the document reflect actions of the 2005 Florida Legislature and revision of the Florida School Code. Additional changes have been made to incorporate current District procedures and enter new language, as appropriate.

Highlights of changes or additions in the *Student Progression Plan 2005-2006* include:

- Goals of the *Secondary School Reform* initiative;
- References to the *K-12 Comprehensive Research-based Reading Plan (K-12 CRRP)*;
- Indicators of student progress other than state and district assessments;
- Guidelines for mid-year promotion for retained third grade students;
- Grade point average graduation requirement for students enrolled in accelerated graduation options;
- Guidelines for phasing-out the Valedictorian and Salutatorian and phasing-in three levels of academic achievement (*Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude*, and *Summa Cum Laude*); and
- Provisions for alternative assessments to the Grade 10 FCAT.

The proposed amendment to Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.04 was submitted for Initial Reading at the School Board meeting of September 8, 2005 and Final Reading at the School Board meeting of October 19, 2005. At the October 19th meeting discussion between staff and the Board ensued on the proposed amended section of the document regarding Rank in Class – Grade Point Average. The Board voted to defer the item to allow staff and the Board to further review the document. Subsequent to this action, the *Student Progression Plan* has been revised and is being resubmitted at this time. The revisions include: the academic recognition program for graduating students, procedures to be implemented for middle school students scoring at Level 2 on the FCAT reading, and the addition of Appendix Q, which compares the various individual student plans to assist students in meeting state and district expectations.

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Any changes that would have impact on the *Student Progression Plan* based upon future interpretations or clarification of legislation by the Florida Department of Education will be communicated to appropriate staff by means of memoranda. Changes in the 2005-2006 edition of the *Student Progression Plan* are summarized on pages vii-xiv of the document.

Attached are the Notice of Intended Action and the rule proposed for amendment. Changes from the current rule are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~ words to be deleted.

Copies of the proposed amended document, *Student Progression Plan 2004-2005*, will be forwarded to the Board Members under separate cover and will be available for inspection by the public in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, Room 924, and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N. E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the amendment of Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.04, Promotion, Placement, and Graduation – Grades K-12 and Adult.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.04, Promotion, Placement, and Graduation – Grades K-12 and Adult, and the document, *Student Progression Plan 2004-2005*, which is incorporated by reference and is part of this rule.

AD/LCR:aar

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on December 14, 2005, its intention to amend Board Rule 6Gx13- 5B-1.04, Promotion, Placement, and Graduation-Grades K-12 and Adult, and the document, *Student Progression Plan 2004-2005*, which is incorporated by reference and be made part of this rule, at its meeting of February 15, 2006.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The recommended amendments, deletions, or additions to the *Student Progression Plan*, are a result of actions during the legislative session, interpretations or clarifications by the Florida Department of Education of statutes, or Florida Board of Education rules related to student progression. In addition, recommendations from various stakeholder groups have been incorporated into this document.

SUMMARY: The document establishes the requirements and procedures for student progression within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. These procedures are related to student progression, retention, and special placement, grades K-12 and adult. Furthermore, these procedures establish an academic recognition program for graduating students and the requirements for graduation. The *Student Progression Plan* provides standards for implementation which reflect that promotion in Miami-Dade County Public Schools is based on student achievement.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: 1001.41(1) and (2) 1001.42(22) 1001.43(10) F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 1001.41(3); 1001.42(6); 1003.41; 1003.43; 1008.25 F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF February 15, 2006, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by January 11, 2006, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED RULE is available to the public for inspection and copying at cost in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida, 33132.

Originator: Ms. Antoinette Dunbar
Supervisor: Dr. Rudolph F. Crew
Date: November 30, 2005

Progress**PROMOTION, PLACEMENT, AND GRADUATION--GRADES K-12 AND ADULT**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida is dedicated to the total and continuous development of each student. The professional staff of the school system has the responsibility to develop administrative procedures to ensure the placement of each student in the subjects, in the grade level, or in the special program(s) best suited to meet the student's academic needs, with consideration given to the student's social, emotional, and physical development.

Decisions regarding student promotion, retention, and special placement are primarily the responsibilities of the individual school's professional staff; however, the final decision in regard to grade placement is the responsibility of the principal. The districtwide standards, in accordance with which placement decisions must be made, are entitled *Student Progression Plan 2004-2005 2005-2006*, which is incorporated by reference herein and made a part of this Board rule. Also, the purpose of this plan is to establish requirements and procedures for pupil progression within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Copies of this plan are on file in the Office of Board Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center. The standards and the procedures for their implementation that are contained in the plan reflect clearly that promotion in Miami-Dade County Public Schools is based primarily on student achievement and is not an automatic process.

The measures which are employed to implement the standards must clearly reflect the multicultural composition of this community. Students must be provided placements which are appropriate for their English language competency and cultural background. Limited English proficient students must be provided instruction which is understandable, as well as equal and comparable in amount, scope, sequence, and quality to that provided to English proficient students. The acquisition of English language skills is the highest instructional priority for speakers of other languages. Grade placement and promotion, however, are to be based on the student's performance in the dominant language while the student is in the process of becoming independent in English.

The purpose of the instructional program in the District's schools is to provide appropriate instruction and selected services to enable students to perform academically at their grade level or higher. However, in recognition of the wide range of students' abilities, motivation, interests, and development, the *Student Progression Plan* establishes objectives and competencies for language arts/reading, writing, mathematics, science, computer literacy, social sciences, and for electives, which may include foreign languages, art, music, physical education, and applied technology (vocational) courses, which all students must meet as one condition for graduation within the school district. These objectives and

competencies assure that all students who earn a diploma from a senior high school or adult education center have sufficient basic skills to function effectively in post-secondary education, the world of work, and the community. The *Student Progression Plan* provides assurance that all students within Miami-Dade County Public Schools who receive a diploma have met and/or exceeded all of the requirements mandated by the State of Florida and by the School Board.

The accompanying manuals for the *Student Progression Plan 2004-2005 2005-2006* shall be the *Florida Course Code Directory*, published annually by the Florida Department of Education, *Course Descriptions*, *Sunshine State Standards*, *Curriculum Bulletin-I*, and the *Competency-Based Curriculum, K-12*, which shall be a part of the *Student Progression Plan*. Copies of the manuals are on file in the Office of Board Recording Secretary and the Citizen Information Center, Room 158. Principals shall distribute copies of the *Competency-Based Curriculum* for the grade levels or courses to classroom teachers, as appropriate, in accordance with specific courses being taught.

As part of the *Student Progression Plan*, procedures are established to achieve parental understanding, cooperation, and acceptance of the student's promotion or placement with the knowledge that, within District and State regulations, the final decision regarding grade placement remains the prerogative of the principal. The student, the parent, and other interested patrons must have ample opportunity to understand fully the promotion and placement requirements of the District.

When students are from homes in which a language other than English is spoken, communications (written or oral) with parents/guardians are undertaken in the parents' primary language or other mode of communication commonly used by the parents unless clearly not possible. When it becomes evident that the standards or requirements for promotion may not be met, parents of students in grades K-12 and adult students must be informed of the possibility of retention or special placement. Student grades, unsatisfactory work notices, parent reports on state assessment and/or standardized testing, parent conferences, and adult student conferences should serve as the primary means of communicating student progress and achievement of the standards.

Specific Authority: 1001.41(1)(2);1001.42(22); 1001.43(10) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 1001.41(3); 1001.42(6); 1003.41; 1003.43; 1008.25 F.S.

History THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
 Repromulgated: 12-11-74
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 8-21-85; 9-17-86; 10-15-86; 9-30-87; 9-28-88; 6-28-89; 9-26-90;
 9-4-91; 9-23-92; 9-22-93; 6-7-95; 5-8-96; 10-8-97; 8-26-98; 8-25-99;
 10-11-00; 10-24-01; 8-21-02; 8-20-03; 10-20-04